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December 27, 2000

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Re:

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

ATTN: EXAMINER AVILA (GROUP 3617)

Reissue Appln. No. 09/613,154

Dear Sir:

Please find enclosed a Protest Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.291 To Patentee's-Application For Reissue Of U.S. Patent No. 5,979,350. The Protest originally was hand carried to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on October 27, 2000, as evidenced by the enclosed postcard receipt, but apparently has been lost. A second copy was hand carried to the U.S.P.T.O. on December 22, 2000, but that copy was left in the mail room because nobody was present in Group 3617 to receive it. Because the Protest was originally filed within the 2-month period prescribed by 37 C.F.R. § 1.176, the undersigned requests that the Examiner consider the Protest in his examination of the above-identified reissue application.

If you have any questions, please contact me in our Washington, D.C. office at (202) 530-1010. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO

By:

John W. Behringer Reg. No. 23,086

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	HAND CARRY Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231	Date 10 , 27 , 00 Mo. Day Yr.
FCHS-D-95	Sir: Kindly acknowledge receipt of the accompanying:	Atty. Docket 2473.300200 Application No.09/4/3,154 RECEIVED
	Response to Official Action. Check for \$	
	Atty. EJH / Jws / tax Due Date	/r.